

Statement of the Senate of the DFG

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Sex, Gender and Diversity

Importance to Research Projects

Bonn, 23 April 2020

In basic research, sex and gender dimensions and diversity dimensions can be a crucial factor in the planning and carrying out of research projects. This applies regardless of discipline and is equally true with respect to the transferability and later applicability or usability of results for different groups of people.

For example, crash test dummies modelled on both male and female bodies illustrate individual injury risks for both genders and help to prevent them. For a long time, research on osteoporosis risk in men was neglected, but it is now known that around a third of men are at risk of the condition and need effective treatments (for further examples from research and DFG funding, see www.dfg.de/diversity_dimensions).

Appropriate consideration of sex and gender dimensions and diversity dimensions in the development of research questions and the formation of hypotheses and theories therefore helps to enhance the scientific quality of research results.

Their importance to an individual project will vary depending on the research context, topic and methods. Sex, gender and diversity may be significant dimensions with respect to, among other things,

- the researchers,
- the persons studied,
- the individuals affected by implementation of the research results,
- the animals studied or
- samples taken from humans or animals.

Reflecting on sex, gender and diversity is therefore an important and integral part of preparing a research project. To underline this, the DFG has added a passage on the relevance of sex, gender and diversity to its proposal preparation guidelines.

Should sex and gender dimensions and diversity dimensions not be relevant to a project in terms of content or methodology, no details in this regard are required in the proposal.

However, reflection on the importance of sex, gender and diversity to research is always part of good research practice and is therefore integrated in the DFG Code of Conduct *Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice* (2019).

Further information on sex, gender and diversity in research is available at www.dfg.de/diversity_dimensions.

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